

## Springfield District Report - February 2004

A monthly electronic newsletter from the [Fairfax County Springfield District Office](#)  
Elaine McConnell, Supervisor

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### **Fairfax County Chief Financial Officer Provides 2005 Financial Forecast**

Edward L. Long, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, Fairfax County, provided the "Fairfax County Financial Forecast: 2005" at the Economic Advisory Committee meeting held January 21, 2004. Key elements of Mr. Long's presentation included the following:

- The trend continues re increasing dependency upon the real estate tax.
- From FY 2000 through FY 2005 real estate tax assessments will have increased 68%. Mr. Long noted that if the Board of Supervisors had not decreased the tax rate from \$1.23/\$100 to \$1.16/\$100 the increase would have been 90%.
- Fairfax County pays 75% of its schools' costs, 13% comes from state aid and the balance from the sales tax. This coming year the school system has asked for a 9.7% increase in the county transfer whereas the county has offered 5.5%. This equates to a gap of approximately \$52 million dollars.
- FY 2005 will be the fourth year in a row of double digit tax increases in real estate.
- Spending for public safety has increased from 12.0% of the budget to 12.3% of the budget. Basically this has been driven by Home land Security concerns based on the events of September 11, 2001.
- Spending for health and welfare has decreased from over 12% to a projected 11.8% of the FY 2005 budget.
- Compounding the problem of revenue is the fact that county has over fifteen million square feet of unused commercial office space. It is estimated that in FY 2005 only about 18% of real estate tax revenues will come from the commercial sector. This compares to over 26% in the early 1990s.
- A key issue continues to be affordable housing for the working force. This is noted particularly for our young people. A collateral issue is the cost for those on fixed incomes with very few options available to relieve the situation.

For further information, contact [Norman Byers](#), Supervisor McConnell's Chief-of-Staff, at 703-451-8873, TTY 703-455-6691.

### **Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs) Openings**

Citizen advisory bodies play a very important role in county government. Supervisor McConnell is looking for a Springfield District representative for the following BACs:

- Child Care Advisory Council
- [Human Services Council](#)
- Airports Advisory Committee
- [Environmental Quality Advisory Committee](#)
- Advisory Social Services Board

If you are interested in serving on any of these BACs, please contact [Dianne Peikin](#), Supervisor McConnell's Administrative Aide, at 703-451-8873, TTY 703-455-6691. For further information on the various BACs, see the [BACs Website](#).

### **Land Use Committee Meets February 3**

The Springfield District Fairfax Center Area Land Use Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. The first item on the agenda is a proposal by the Wegmans Food Markets Corporation to permit an increase in the sign area. The property that is the subject of this discussion is located north of Lee Highway immediately east of Monument Drive and south of Government Center Parkway. Committee members will also discuss the West Ox Road Complex Master Plan proposal. This is their second review of this proposal. The property that is the subject of this proposal is located at the corner of West Ox Road and Route 29. For further information or for reasonable ADA accommodations, please contact [Marlae Schnare](#), Supervisor McConnell's Administrative Aide, at 703-324-2500, TTY 703-455-6691. For general information on the land use committee and for minutes of past meetings, see the Springfield District Land Use [Website](#).

### **Community Room Available for Non-Profit Groups**

The West Springfield Governmental Center offers not-for-profit community groups the opportunity to reserve (for free) meeting space in the Community Room. This room can hold up to 100 people, or can be split into 2 separate rooms with a folding wall holding 50 people each. All organizations wishing to reserve the Community Room must submit an application to Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell's office. For further information see the Community Room [Website](#), or call [Dianne Peikin](#), Supervisor McConnell's Administrative Aide, at 703-451-8873, TTY 703-455-6691.

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